

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS
Legal Section
and
International Prosecution Section

In the matter of operations of the Japanese Eighth Submarine Squadron, including Japanese Submarine I-8, in the Indian Ocean in 1943-44, particularly from February 1944 to July 1944 while Admiral Shigetaro SHIMADA was Chief of Naval General Staff and Navy Minister

AFFIDAVIT

1. I, Susumu SAKAI, being duly sworn upon oath, make the following statement. I am 39 years of age. My residence is Zushi, and I am Area Labor Chief and interpreter for British Commonwealth Occupation Forces at Tokyo. I had over 15 years service as an Officer in the Imperial Japanese Navy and held the rank of Commander. I was Staff Officer for Communications, Eighth Submarine Squadron, from May 1943 until February 1945. I was concurrently Intelligence Officer. I graduated from the Naval Academy in 1932. As a midshipman I served on several Japanese cruisers and made a voyage to Europe in 1933 aboard the YAKUMO. I was graduated in 1937 from the Naval Communications School at Yokosuka. I then served in the China service. Early in 1941 I was appointed to the Fifth Submarine Squadron (Staff Communications). In January 1942 the Fifth Submarine Squadron established headquarters at Penang, with the commanding officer Rear Admiral Marquis Takashige DAIGO. Penang had been a merchant marine base and we set up our headquarters in the Runnymede Hotel and our submarines made use of the dock and harbor facilities. The Squadron had six submarines at that time and its mission was to break the allied supply lines to India. In the beginning of April 1942 the Fifth Squadron was recalled to Sasebo in order to take part in the Midway operation. At Penang the Fifth Squadron was replaced by the Second Submarine Squadron under Rear Admiral Hisashi ICHIOKA. From July 1942 until May 1943 I was on duty in China.

2. In May 1943, I was appointed Staff Officer (Communications) of the Eighth Submarine Squadron based at Penang. This squadron had been formed in Japan at the outbreak of the war. In November 1942, it took part in the sea attack on Sidney, Australia. In January 1943, it took part in the sea attack on DIEGO SUAREZ in northern Madagascar. The Eighth Submarine Squadron then returned to Japan for repairs. After

repairs had been completed, the Eighth Squadron was dispatched to Penang where it was based until it was disbanded in February 1945. At that time I became Senior Officer of the Fifteenth Naval Garrison Base at Penang and was promoted to the rank of Commander. On 23 August 1945, I went aboard the British Battleship H.M.S. NELSON as a representative of Rear Admiral Jisaku UOZUMI, met Admiral WALKER, and arranged to hand over the base of Penang to the British. Penang surrendered on 3 Sept 1945, and British Marines landed and took over the base.

3. The Eighth Submarine Squadron had a total of 14 submarines with it during the time it was based at Penang. These submarines were as follows: I-8, I-10, I-26, I-27, I-29, I-34, I-37, I-39, I-165, I-166, Ro-110, Ro-111, Ro-113, and Ro-115.

4. The submarine I-8 was about 1800 tons, 80 meters in length, could stay out on patrol for eight weeks, and carried a complement of 9 officers and some 60 men. The I-8 and the I-10 were equipped to carry a seaplane used to scout ports and installations, and to reconnoiter ship traffic lanes.

5. German submarines based at Penang during the time that I was there numbered 8 or 10, under the command of Frigatten-Kapitan DOMMES. In the beginning of their operations together, the Japanese and Germans made a treaty whereby the German submarines were to patrol west of 64° E. longitude, and the Japanese submarines were to patrol east of this line. By the beginning of 1944, however, there were no actual areas of responsibility for either German or Japanese submarines operating out of Penang. In Penang, Germans and Japanese mingled socially. While a submarine was in the harbor, Japanese were invited aboard German submarines, and the Germans were invited aboard the Japanese submarines. Sometimes when a submarine was going on trial runs within Penang Harbor, the Germans would invite a few Japanese aboard it. However, no Japanese ever went on a combat operation with a German submarine, and no Germans went aboard a Japanese submarine during either a trial run or a combat operation.

6. The mission of the Eighth Submarine Squadron was to reconnoiter the British Fleet and to cut the allied supply lines to India. The Germans cooperated with the Japanese in cutting the supply lines. The Squadron operated under the Japanese Sixth Fleet. This was the submarine fleet. It was first based at Truk in the Pacific. Sometime during the first half of 1944, it moved from Truk to Kure in Japan. Commanding Officers of the Sixth Fleet included Vice Admiral TAKAGI and Vice Admiral Hisashi MITO.

7. Orders and instructions to the Eighth Squadron were channeled as follows: Orders came from the Naval General Staff in Tokyo to the Sixth Fleet at Truk. These orders were passed by the Sixth Fleet to the Eighth Submarine Squadron. Instructions, however, came directly from Naval General Staff, Tokyo, to the Eighth Submarine Squadron, because the Sixth Fleet did not know exact conditions in the Indian Ocean and because direct communications were maintained between certain officers of the Eighth Squadron with the Naval General Staff, Tokyo.

8. Communications between the Sixth Fleet and the Eighth Squadron and the Naval General Staff in Tokyo were by wireless for messages requiring speed, and by air for documents. Information transmitted from the Eighth Squadron was sent to the Sixth Fleet with a copy to Naval General Staff, Tokyo. This information was usually of three types: (1) Movements of submarines of the Eighth Squadron; (2) Sinkings by these submarines and (3) Reconnaissance reports.

9. As Staff Officer (Communications) my duties concerning the briefing of submarine personnel before a patrol were to give instructions to the Communications Officer of the submarine and his operator regarding what frequency to use on their radio sets, what time to tune in to our broadcast from Penang, what time to call back to Penang (usually midnight) and what signal code to use. Whenever a submarine sank an enemy ship, the submarine would send a message back, giving the time and location of the sinking, whether the ship was alone or in convoy, and what course it had been following. The code which we used in messages concerning the sinking of an allied ship was a five-letter code. The first letter stood for time, the second for latitude, the third for longitude, the fourth for single or convoyed ship, and the fifth for course. This message was repeated quickly three times each night by the submarine until Penang noted receipt in its nightly broadcast to the submarine. My duties upon the return of the submarine were to board it as soon as it entered the harbor and came alongside the pier, and to go down into the wireless room and check with the communications personnel on the communications log and equipment. All official documents of the Eighth Submarine Squadron were taken to Tokyo by airplane when the Squadron was disbanded in February 1945.

10. The number of allied ships sunk by the submarines of the Eighth Squadron while I was with it was about 40 ships. This total is slightly greater than the total of ships sunk by the German submarines that were based at Penang. The patrols of each submarine, together with their command officers, the allied vessels sunk by each submarine and other details of operations have been studied by me in

compliance with requests by allied officers, including Lt. George F. Getty III, Army of the United States, who interrogated me at Singapore, Malaya, on April 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 15, 1946, and Lt. W. Salter, Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, who interrogated me at Tokyo on June 19, 1946. Both officers were on the staff of Legal Section, General Headquarters, Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers. I stated to them information contained in this statement, and the following information in regard to the Submarine I-8.

The I.J.N. Submarine "I-8" under Captain UCHINO, made a voyage to Germany from Japan and returned to Singapore in December 1943. Aboard at the time of the return trip were four Germans, a Major Reinold and three technicians. In March 1944, the I-8 was put under the command of Commander Tatsunosuke ARIIZUMI. It made a patrol from March until May, 1944, south of Ceylon and near the Chagos Archipelago, and one ship was sunk. Three weeks were spent in Penang making repairs and in early June the I-8 again put to sea and patrolled until early August. This patrol was in the same area as the first, and two ships were sunk. In September 1944, the I-8 sailed back to Japan under the command of Commander ARIIZUMI. As for character, Captain UCHINO was a very quiet and gentle man. Commander ARIIZUMI on the other hand was very fierce and full of fighting spirit. He was also a very industrious and intelligent man. He fretted for action and disliked shore duty very much. I heard that before the war, as a staff officer of the Naval General Staff, Commander ARIIZUMI had the duty of selecting the submarines and submarine crews to be used in the attack on the Hawaiian Islands. His nickname among his Navy friends was "Gangster," although he had a rather boyish face.

I have referred above to the fact that the I-8 sank a ship on its March-May 1944 patrol and two ships on its June-August 1944 patrol. I knew at the time that these allied ships were sunk but I did not learn their names at that time. When I was interrogated by Lt. Getty as stated above, at first I did not know the names of the allied ships sunk. With the aid of maps, the positions, courses and dates of sinking of ships, the area, period and duration of patrols of submarines of the Eighth Submarine Squadron, the probable number of vessels sunk during each patrol of each submarine, and with the help of Japanese Naval personnel at Singapore, we were able to judge the probable submarines responsible for the various allied vessels sunk. On the basis of the foregoing studies and conferences, I am confident that the vessel which was sunk by the I-8 on its March-May patrol was the TJISALAK. I remember hearing Commander ARIIZUMI speak of

sinking a ship and later seeing a European woman in one of its lifeboats. By the same method of determining the identity of the ships sunk by the I-8, I am confident that one of the two ships sunk by the I-8 on its June-August patrol was the SS JEAN NICOLET. On the date of that sinking (2 July 1944) the I-8 was the only Japanese submarine operating in the area where the NICOLET was sunk. In August 1944, the I-8 brought in to Penang two or three prisoners, but I am unable to remember their nationality. The total number of prisoners of war brought into Penang by the submarines of the Eighth Squadron during the time I was with the unit was about five or six persons.

11. In regard to the procedure of interrogating these prisoners of war from sunken vessels, the prisoners were first interrogated aboard the submarine after their capture. In the case of the I-10, the prisoners were turned over to Commander ARIIZUMI, who was at that time Chief of Staff. He was interested in the situation at sea and he interrogated these people himself. In the case of the prisoners taken by the I-8, Commander ARIIZUMI interrogated these people at sea and used the information gained thereby at once. In both cases, the information gained from the prisoners was brought up by the submarine commanders at the staff conference after the submarines had returned from patrol. Although I was the Squadron Intelligence Officer, I did not do the interrogating in both of these cases of prisoners of the Eighth Submarine Squadron because Commander ARIIZUMI took complete charge. As these prisoners were usually ship's officers, it seemed that Commander ARIIZUMI had much use himself for their information. Commander ARIIZUMI made up the interrogation reports and forwarded them by air to the Navy Department. As he had many friends there, he could do this sort of thing very easily. However, I became very angry with him when he would not let me in on any of the information that he had gathered.

In regard to mistreatment of prisoners, I never heard of such mistreatment while I was at Penang. I never knew of such charges until Lt. Getty read to me statements by survivors of the SS TJISALAK and SS JEAN NICOLET. Perhaps the reason that I did not hear such things was that I did not associate much with the officers and crew of the submarines at Penang. I was a Staff Officer and therefore all my time was spent ashore. I had friends amongst the local Chinese people of Penang and spent most of my off-duty hours with them. On the other hand, the submarine personnel had very few acquaintances amongst the town people and spent their time in the Japanese restaurant and with the Japanese "comfort girls" in Penang. I have gone to this Japanese restaurant, but then only on the occasions of an official dinner. I never went there alone. Thus, I may have missed the talk about such terrible actions. I can still hardly believe that such things happened.

12. In regard to protests by the allied governments concerning submarine atrocities, two or three requests were received directly from the Navy Ministry in Tokyo asking for any information about any submarines of the Eighth Submarine Squadron which might have been concerned in the sinkings of two neutral ships, but no requests for investigations into the sinkings of American, British or Dutch ships which were the subjects of allied protests were received by the Eighth Submarine Squadron.

13. I was with the Eighth Submarine Squadron for many months, and it carried out many operations during that time. Therefore what information I have given cannot be exact but only to the best of my memory.

/s/ S. Sakai
(Japanese signature)

Tokyo, Japan.

I Susumu SAKAI, being duly sworn on oath, state that I have read and fully understand the foregoing statement consisting of five pages, and that this statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

/s/ S. Sakai
(Japanese signature)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 4th day of January, 1948

/s/ W. Salter
Lt. R.N.V.R.